



Term 1 Week 2

# St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: [www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)



1st February 2021

## Welcome to Week 2

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to the 2021 school year! I sincerely hope that everyone has had a restful and relaxing summer break. It has been wonderful to catch up with the children since they returned on Friday and to welcome our new Foundation students to their first day of school. There is certainly a buzz in the air as we gather to begin another year of learning. Congratulations to our new Foundation students and their families for the smooth transition that you have all made and a big welcome to any new students and families from other schools who have joined the St Mary's school community this year.

I would like to make a special welcome to our newest staff members:

We welcome Brady Davidson and Nicola Rintoule, as classroom teachers and are delighted that Brooke Taylor and Megan Bett have returned from leave. We welcome Natasha Gerakis, Sophie Reed, Tahera Jafari, Dilpreet Sandha and Alexia Mase who have joined us as Learning Support Officers, Bre McLean to admin and Gene Brooks who has joined our groundsman team. Welcome one and all!

And welcome to our new St Mary's students and their families as well!

Year 1: Sohiel Hussain, Lochlan Corbett

Year 2: Skyler Martin, Farhan Hussein

Year 3: Tristan Yamson, Pearl North and Sean Caling-Sabado

Year 4: Jack Barry, Oliver Spinks, Coco North, Ananya Jakkanagari

Year 5: Yasmin Hussain and James Xi

## Congratulations

Congratulations also to Kyle and Shawnee Doran who welcomed Henley into their family over the holidays and to Brooke and Braidon Bennett who are proud parents of Lottie Maeve, born on January 25th.

## Holiday Update

We have been busy over the summer break with new projects and maintenance work being undertaken across the school. Joel and Marie's annual spring clean has ensured that all classrooms have been freshened up for the start of the school year while Tim and Gene have been busy with the gardens and grounds. You will notice new paintwork and furniture in the Foundation rooms and that the trees in the front carpark have been replaced by grass. To complete the carpark makeover we are set to upgrade and revitalise our front entrance garden.

Most exciting of all is the opening of Shine Bright Shamrock Park Kindergarten on our grounds. This autonomous preschool is running both a three and a four year old group this year and is set to expand their enrollments to cater for additional four year preschoolers in 2022. Shine Bright have been very fortunate to attract significant funds to instal a wonderful new outdoor facility which is set for completion by the end of this term.



## School Photo Day

Just a reminder that our school photo day is tomorrow **Tuesday 2nd February**. All information has been sent out via PAM. The students' individual and class photos will be taken on this day. If you have any concerns or queries regarding your school photo order please give the office a call .

## Keeping in touch – Our communication with you

Throughout the year there will be times when you need to contact your child's teacher(s) or one of the senior leadership team. We encourage frank and open discussions at all times and would suggest that any matter, major or minor, is best dealt with sooner rather than later. If there is something you are concerned about, unsure of or puzzled by regarding your child we would encourage you to touch base with us. While it may be convenient to try to catch a teacher before or after the school day, this may not be the most appropriate time to have an in-depth discussion about your child. *So how do you do this?* Phone or email to the school, directed to the class teacher asking them to call you.



We strongly encourage all families to join our school Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria) as it captures many different events occurring at the school while our instagram page [#stmarysswanhill](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysswanhill) gives you lots of insights into what is happening on a day to day basis around the school. In particular, our Facebook page is a handy quick reference if you want to check details about upcoming events as these are always promoted on this platform. Our school website [www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au) provides a very comprehensive overview of the school and the snapshot tours are well worth a look.

In terms of other communication, please ensure that you have set up your **PAM** account. This platform will keep you up to date with weekly reminders and the newsletter. We showcase key events in The Guardian every fortnight and advertise key events regularly on the local radio station.

## Opening School Mass

As a Catholic school community, we begin our year with the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together at our Opening School Mass. At this Mass we give thanks for the many blessings provided for us in the world of education and learning and to ask God for guidance and energy to make the most of all that we have been provided with. We will also be presenting our new School Captains and Vice Captains with their badges as they begin this important leadership role. We will celebrate our Opening Year Mass together at 9:15am in the gym on Thursday 11th February and will advise on next week's newsletter if families can attend.

## Assembly celebrations

Once again this year we will be running our whole school assemblies on Monday mornings at 8:55 am and Friday afternoons from 12:25 pm. Assemblies at these times occur so that we can maximise the learning time for all our students during the morning block which is the prime time for learning. Monday assemblies are short and sweet with the main tasks being to acknowledge birthdays, share key notices for the week and sing the national anthem. We aim to have students in class ready to learn by 9:10am. Monday assemblies are held outside opposite the MPR under the large shade shelter and the classes line-up with the juniors at the front and the 5\6 at the back. Friday assemblies are held in the gym and are an opportunity to celebrate the week at school. Each Friday assembly is run by a different class who lead us in prayer and we like to enjoy a whole school sing along at these gatherings as well. Our first whole school assembly is Friday 19th February and again we will advise if parents, family and friends are able to attend.

## Parent Carparks

We will continue with our system of students with surnames A-L using the carpark near the office and M-Z using the parent gym carpark at the start and end of the day.

Have a great week as we all get back into the swing of school life,

**Kate**



At St Mary's we provide support for children across many areas.

### Wellbeing and Additional Learning Needs Coordinator--Ginny Gook

#### Wellbeing team-Ginny Gook, Brenda Ford, Jordan Morris, Krishell Wilson and Rachael Moloney

Brenda, Jordan, Krishell and Rachael work with children who need extra support for a variety of wellbeing reasons. This support can be whole class, small groups or one on one. They are all qualified Brain Gym and Peaceful Kids Leaders and work with teachers and children teaching strategies and movements that help children be ready for learning. They also work with teachers and children incorporating mindfulness activities throughout the day. Please contact Kate or Ginny if you have significant concerns regarding your child's wellbeing.

**Speech and Language Support**-Chelsea Harris from the Catholic Education Office (CEO) and Melinda Wallace-LSO Chelsea visits our school 2-3 times a term and works with children to plan programs to support their speech and language needs. Melinda implements the programs designed by Chelsea on a weekly basis. If you are concerned about your child's speech or language development please make contact with Ginny.

#### Hearing and Vision support (CEO)-Monique Ryan

**Learning Support Officers - (LSO's)** work in classrooms either supporting children or conducting programs on an identified needs basis. They are an amazing team and build wonderful relationships with the children they support.

## Curriculum News - Mrs Hall

### [DNA: Dreams, Needs and Abilities](#)

With the excitement of a new year we begin with a whole school focus around our **'Learning to Learning'** Units. As a school we value the strong focus of positive relationships, building connections amongst students and staff and fostering resilience which is built from strong relationships. Many classrooms have begun sharing their **DNA (dreams, needs and abilities)**, as a way of building relationships and making new connections with their peers and teachers.

Knowing this information and applying it in various ways throughout our year, together builds a sense of community within our classroom and allows staff to meet student needs in a whole new way. As a staff it allows us to value their **dreams**, examine their **needs** without judgement and to focus on their **abilities** and the gifts they can share with others. We believe that every child is a success story waiting to be told and that **"Every Child Matters Every Day"**.

### [Different ways to ask your child "How was school today?"](#)

Here are some great questions and conversation starters to get your children talking about school. Remember it is also the perfect opportunity for you to share your own answers too and as a family.

- *What is your DNA? (Dreams, needs, abilities)*
- *What is something that went well today?*
- *What made you smile today?*
- *Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?*
- *Tell me something that made your teacher laugh today.*
- *Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.*
- *What did you do that was creative?*
- *If you could choose, who would you like to sit next to in class?*
- *Where is the coolest place at the school?*
- *How did you help somebody today? Did anyone help you?*
- *Who would you give student of the day to today? Why?*
- *Which playground is your favourite and why?*
- *If you got to be the teacher tomorrow what would you do?*
- *What are you looking forward to this week/term/year at school?*
- *Tell what Lego club looks like?*

## RE News - Mrs Davies

As a Catholic school community, we begin our year with the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together at our Opening School Mass. At this Mass we give thanks for the many blessings provided for us in the world of education and learning and to ask God for guidance and energy to make the most of all that we have been provided with. We will celebrate our Opening Year Mass together at 9:15am in the school gym on Thursday 11th February. We will let families know on next week's newsletter if you are able to attend.

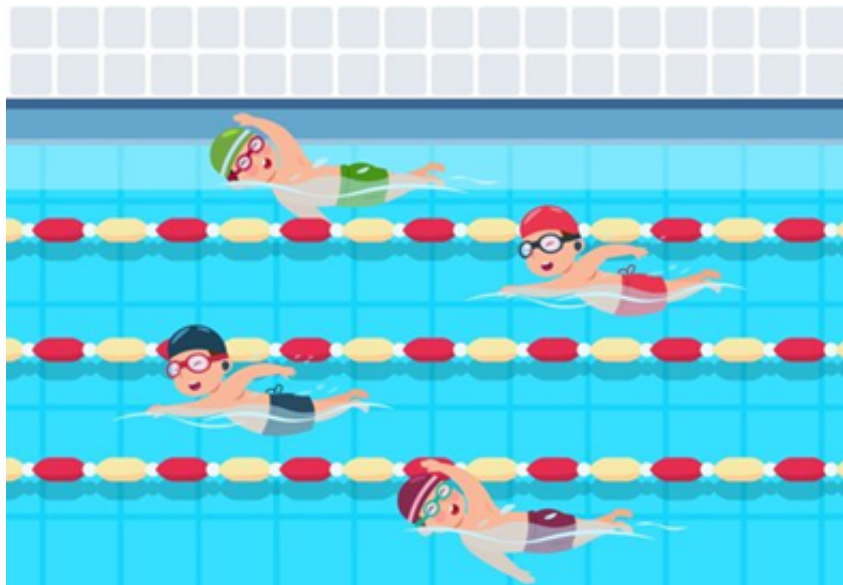
## Physical Education - Miss Clark

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and are feeling refreshed and ready to get back into some PE! It is quite a busy term for PE beginning with our Swimming trials for students in Years 3-6. There is also Division and Regional Swimming, Summer Sports for Years 5-6, Regional Tennis try-outs for students to look forward to in Term One.

### Swimming Trials

A note will be sent home via PAM to students in Year 3-6 with information regarding the Swimming Trials for the upcoming Division swimming carnival on Monday, the 22nd of February. Any students interested in competing in the trials are required to fill out the information on PAM. The trials are being held on **Wednesday, the 10th of February between 1-3pm**. Students expressing interest must be able to swim 50m quite confidently. Only the top times will progress to the Division swimming.

**The forms must be completed no later than Friday, the 5th of February by 4pm.**



## Key Dates

### Tuesday February 2nd

School Photo Day -  
information has been sent to  
families via PAM

### Wednesday February 10th

Swimming Trial for Yr 3-6  
Information to be sent via  
PAM

### Thursday February 11th

Start of Year Mass  
9.15am  
School Gym

## Administration News

### PAM ( Parent Access Module)

PAM (Parent Access Module) is the method of communication between school and home. All permissions, letters, notifications and general information regarding camps and excursions, sport days and medical information will be sent via PAM. Parents will also receive a notification via PAM when your child visits the sick bay. We encourage all parents that have not already logged in to verify your email and complete the medical profile for your child/ren to do so as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss important information related to your child.

### Lost Property

Our lost property bin is emptied each Friday with named items returned to children via the classroom baskets. **Please ensure all of your child's uniform, lunch boxes and drink bottles are labelled so they can be easily returned.**



### Health Reminder

It is important that we all continue to monitor our own and the health of our children daily during this time. If you or your child develops any symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath:

- Stay at home and do not attend school
- Seek medical advice
- Call the school to let us know of any important outcomes
- If you or your child has a health condition or complex health needs, please discuss this with your medical specialist.
- Information about coronavirus (COVID-19) is available on the [DHHS](#) and [CEM](#) websites.

Our school is continuing to promote and implement on a daily basis both Covid-safe behaviours and practices across our school community.

### Canteen Helpers

If you would like to volunteer in our school canteen, please contact the office on 50332541 and we can send you a form to fill in your availability.

### Nyah/Swan Hill Two Bays Swimming Club All Schools Swimming Championships

Friday 19th February 2021 5pm - Swan Hill Outdoor Pool.

Registration forms available from the school office or email [secretary@twobaysswimming.org.au](mailto:secretary@twobaysswimming.org.au) for more details.



Enrolments are now being accepted for Music Tuition in Term 1 – 2021. We have lessons in: Guitar, Bass, Drums, Singing, Piano, ukulele and concert band instruments.

You can collect an enrolment form in store or via email:

[lanewaymusicswanhill@outlook.com](mailto:lanewaymusicswanhill@outlook.com), or phone: 03 5032 9301 – 0417 562 639.

-Find us on Facebook -|

Wishing you all a  
very Happy Birthday

JAN 1 - Samantha P

JAN 4 - Sam B, Charli C, Tawney Mc  
Addison M

JAN 5 - Marley B, Charlotte T

JAN 7 - Milla P, Eva R

JAN 8 - Jack H, Asha N

JAN 9 - Lawson R

JAN 10 - Sienna A, Aarav B, Belle L

JAN 12 - Tommy N

JAN 14 - Leo W

JAN 15 - Sonic H

JAN 16 - Matilda M

JAN 17 - Will O'B, Judd O'S

JAN 18 - Pacey T

JAN 19 - Michaela Mc, Joel S, Kye T

JAN 20 - Beau H, Quinn L



JAN 21 - Tilly S

JAN 23 - Levi C, Simran K, Dustin M

JAN 25 - Indi P, Evie S

JAN 26 - Patrick E, Brealle L, Holly L, Skyler M

JAN 27 - Rory D, Olivia R, Hugh W

JAN 28 - Jake O'B

JAN 29 - Lucius S

JAN 30 - Myles H

JAN 31 - Thomas L

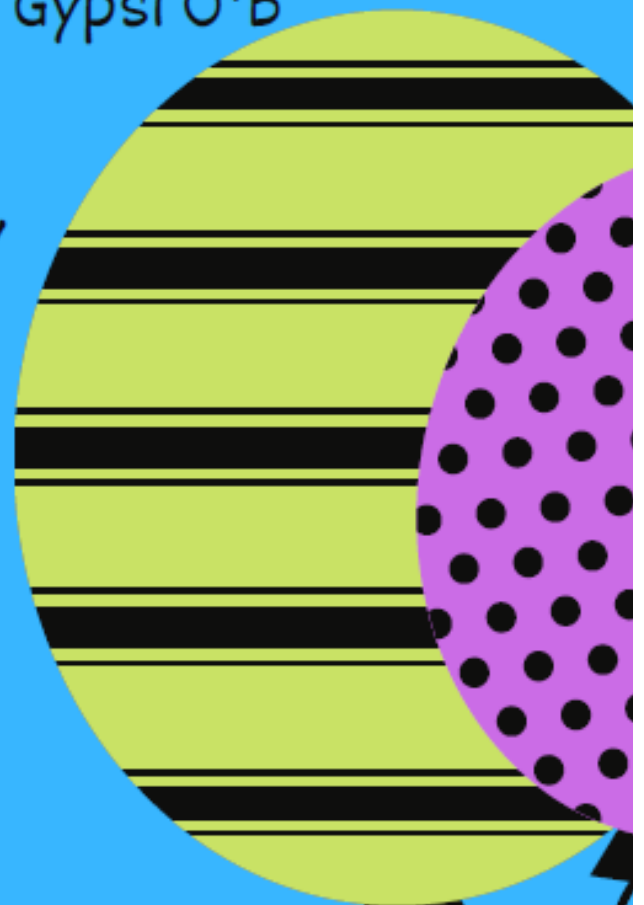
FEB 3 - Johannes O

FEB 4 - Maverik B, Chloe N, Gypsi O'B

FEB 5 - Kevin T, David T

FEB 6 - Mark H, Marcus Mc,  
Lola R

We hope you have a  
wonderful day!



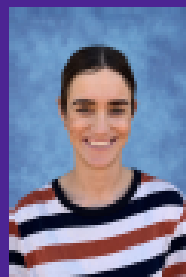
*We welcome the following  
staff to St Mary's...*



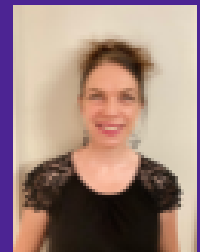
Miss Nicola Rintoule



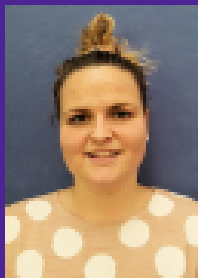
Mr Brady Davidson



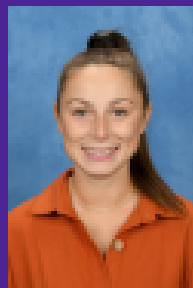
Rachael Moloney



Natasha Gerakis



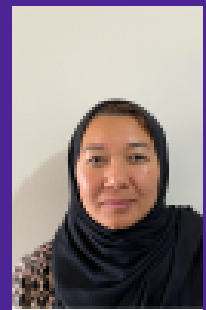
Sophie Reed



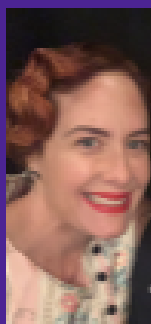
Alexia Mase



Dilpreet Sandha



Tahera Jafari



Emma Saunders



Bre McLean



Gene Brooks